Open Tree

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION RECORD

No. 2.] Mission Room, No. 254 Broome-Street, New-York. [1832.

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETY.

This Society was organized in the city of New-York, on the 27th April, 1832, and incorporated by an act of the Legislature of the State of New-York, in April, 1832. Its object is to promote the preaching of the Gospel in North America. Missionaries have been employed in nearly all the United States and Territories, the British Provinces and the Republic of Texas, where, but principally in the Valley of the Mississippi, many are now successfully laboring. The conventions and other associated bodies in the Atlantic States, which are generally auxiliaries, supply their own [illegible] station.

The operations of the society are carried forward entirely upon the voluntary principle. They are managed by an Executive Board, appointed annually, whose services are gratuitous. The Society has no permanent fund. Its treasury is supplied by the free-will offerings of its friends. No missionary is entirely supported, but only aided by the Society. They all act under general instructions, and report [illegible] to the Board, their labors and success. Arrangements are made with the [illegible] of auxiliary bodies by which great propriety in the appointment of missionaries and the appropriation of money is secured.

CO-OPERATION OF AUXILIARIES.

It is expected that our auxiliaries will, as far as they are able, prosecute the [illegible] missionary operations within the territory they occupy. If, however, they are unable to extend their operations as far as their necessities require, the Society holds itself in readiness to aid them according to its ability. [illegible] reference to the necessities of other auxiliaries, or portions of the country. In [illegible] cases it is expected that their Board of Managers will recommend all persons [illegible] they desire us to appoint; assisting, or causing to be aided, all the [illegible] and under the following heads; and (unless special arrangements are made [illegible] Executive Board) aiding the fields of such as may be sent among them, by the [illegible] from other places; thus they will experience the benefit of all the Society's [illegible] aries, so far as not to counteract the instructions of the Executive Board, [illegible] the Board, annually, respecting the appointment or co-operation, [illegible] of all missionaries employed by the Society in their territory, previous to the [illegible] date of their appointment. They will also give prompt notice of all deaths [illegible] within their borders requiring attention; furnish an annual report of all [illegible] meetings, the amount and expense of missionary labor performed under their [illegible] give direction, the season of their missionaries' fields of labor, and all such [illegible] as they possess to facilitate the designs of the Society.

All missionaries appointed by the Executive Board [illegible] post according to the instructions given them from time to time, [illegible] corresponding Secretary. Those appointed to labor within the [illegible] any will be placed under its supervision, as before [illegible] to their Board of Managers, and furnish them a copy of [illegible] corresponding Secretary of the Parent Society as often as they [illegible]

APPLICATIONS FOR AID.

INFORMATION REQUIRED.

All applications for our aid should be accompanied with information on the following points:

FOR ONE CHURCH.

The name of the Church; the town, settlement or village, county and State in which it is situated; the post-office address of the correspondent; the estimated number of inhabitants in the village or settlement; the number of communicants in the Church; the average number of attendants of all classes and ages at public worship on Sundays; the name (in full) of the minister proposed; his post-office address; his age; the number of his family (if he have one) *dependent on him for support*; whether he is regularly ordained, or a licentiate; the date when it is desirable his appointment should commence; the portion of time he is to devote to them; the total amount of salary necessary for his support in order that he may be wholly engaged in the ministry; the portion of that salary which they will engage to pay for the given time; the portion which any auxiliary or other missionary body, propose to pay; the *least* amount that will suffice from the Society for the same period; whether there is another Baptist Church, and any of other denominations in the place; and any circumstances in their case to illustrate the necessity of their application.

FOR TWO OR MORE CHURCHES.

If the labors of the minister are to be divided between two or more churches, information as above, respecting each one is necessary.

FOR A VILLAGE OR SETTLEMENT.

If the application is for the supply of a settlement or village, where there is no organized Church, let the above information be given, substituting the name of the settlement or village for the Church, and stating the number of Baptist members known to be residing in it; or who, residing in the neighborhood, will probably unite in attending public worship with them.

Let the information, in all cases, be given briefly and without comment; after which any other information or explanation thought necessary can be added.

WHO SHOULD MAKE APPLICATION.

We greatly prefer that the minister proposed should, in *all cases*, make the application. If that is inexpedient, we desire that the clerk of the church, officially, or a committee appointed for that purpose, should do it.

Where two or more churches are to share the services of the minister, and circumstances prevent his making the application, a joint committee can, generally, best do it: but if this is not practicable, let the clerk or a committee of each church write.

CONCURRENT CERTIFICATE.

When the application is made by the minister, (which, we repeat, is most desirable) it should be accompanied, (on the same sheet if possible,) with a concurrent certificate of the church or churches to be supplied,—signed by the clerk, officially, or a committee as before mentioned,—in substance, thus, The —— —— church (or churches as the case may be) concur in the foregoing application to the Executive Board of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, to appoint (or re-appoint) —— —— as their missionary.

If the minister is to supply a destitute settlement or village where there is no church, such a certificate, of course, is not expected.

OTHER APPLICATIONS FROM MINISTERS.

If a minister in one State apply for an appointment to another State, having no particular church or settlement in view, but wishing to be directed by the Committee,

it will be necessary for him to inform us of his place of residence; post-office address; age; number of his family (if he have one) dependent on him for support; whether he is ordained, or a licentiate; the total amount of salary necessary per annum; the least portion of it that will suffice from the Society; the period when he will be ready to engage in the duties of his appointment or commence his journey to the field assigned him, and any circumstances calculated to aid the Board in their deliberations.

Such applications should also be accompanied with a recommendation as specified under the proper head.

APPLICATIONS FOR A MINISTER AND AID.

If an application is made not only for aid, but also for a minister to be sent, let all the afore-mentioned information be given except what relates to the minister; and substitute in brief and general terms such as will enable the Board to judge of the qualifications necessary in a minister for the place, and accompany it with the requisite recommendation.

APPLICATIONS FOR ITINERANTS.

If an application is made for an itinerant minister to labor in a new section of country, where there is no church for him to supply, the number of inhabitants, communicants, average attendance at public worship in the *entire field*, and the sum to be raised by the churches may be omitted, and the names of the principal places to be supplied and their populatiea, if known, substituted. If there is a church or churches in the field to supply any part of the time, the requisite information should be given, and in either case, the recommendation will be expected.

RECOMMENDATIONS NECESSARY.

1. If the applicants reside within the boundaries of an auxiliary of this Society, it is *indispensable* that a recommendation should be obtained from their Board of Managers, or its Corresponding Secretary, officially, *not merely of the minister, but of the entire arrangement proposed*,*—and it is expected that such Board or Secretary will candidly state any alterations in the proposed arrangement they think circumstances require.

2. If they reside within the bounds of a State Society, Convention or General Association *not auxiliary*, the recommendation of their Board of Managers, or its Secretary, officially, will be preferred; but if distance, or difficulty in convening the Board prevent, the recommendation of some person or persons known by some of our Executive Board may be forwarded.

3. If circumstances admit of the recommendation being seasonably appended to the letter, it should be done before transmitting it, but if not, let the application be mailed to our Corresponding Secretary, and let the same writer address the person of whom the recommendation is sought, giving a copy of the information and certificate transmitted, and requesting that the result be forwarded to us without delay.—No appointment or re-appointment is made without such recommendation.

APPLICATIONS OR NOMINATIONS FROM AUXILIARIES.

If the application proceed directly from the Board of Managers of an auxiliary body, they will furnish *all the information* required under the appropriate heads above, except the concurrent certificate of the church or churches. It is taken for granted that they are well advised of the wishes of those churches. Their application also is, of course, sufficient recommendation.

RE-APPOINTMENTS.

As the appointments of the Executive Board are made, in general, for twelve months, if a renewal is desired, a new application should be seasonably made, con-

*The recommendation for the proposed arrangement is, generally, far more important and useful than for the minister merely, as he is often well known by the Board, especially if he have been previously appointed; whereas they may often have but little of the propriety of the arrangement without the recommendation of the auxiliary "Boards."

taining fresh information on every point named, except the ordination and age of the minister, and stating any alterations from the previous arrangements.

The whole should be written, if possible, on one sheet of paper, to prevent increased expense of postage; that item being already sufficient to support a missionary.

TAKE NOTICE.

In all the above cases, if any thing required cannot be done, let the reason be given.

REMARKS.

Many reasons might be given for making the foregoing requisitions. A few only will be stated. The larger number of applications come from great distances, the particular localities and other circumstances of which cannot be known by the Board; or they are from persons with whom the Board have no acquaintance. Statistical information is essential to the formation of a proper opinion of the relative or comparative importance of places needing aid, and to assist the Christian public to appreciate the operations of the Society.

Again, the Board wish to act understandingly. Their means are limited, and derived, to a considerable extent, from persons who make sacrifices to bestow them, therefore, they should possess all the evidence consistent, that their appropriations are prudently made. Besides, we have an auxiliary system, to which it is the interest of all parties to adhere—from which, therefore, the Board especially, do not feel at liberty to depart.

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS FOR AID.

Applications for missionary aid are frequently made to the Executive Board unaccompanied with the necessary information and recommendations, although the necessity for them has been very extensively published. The practice subjects the applicants to delay, and the Society to increased expense for postage. It is, therefore, thought expedient to inform all applicants, whether ministers, churches, or others, that, without special reasons, the Executive Board do not depart from the preceding rules; and they earnestly hope that applicants will, hereafter, notice every requisition and conform to them in their communications.

As a general thing, a single sheet of paper is sufficient to contain all the writing necessary in an application, and when it is remembered that our letters usually come from distances where they are marked with the highest amount of postage, it will be seen that we are not unreasonable in requesting our correspondents to bear this point in mind. It is submitted to the judgment of correspondents, whether such applications should come to us post paid.

☞ The receipt of all applications for aid, made conformably with the foregoing rules, will be immediately acknowledged by mailing a copy of this Notice, or a letter if specially requisite, to the address of the applicant. The application will be submitted to the Executive Board at their earliest subsequent meeting; and the success of it communicated to the applicant immediately afterwards.

☞ A copy of this notice folded in a GREEN WRAPPER, will be forwarded to applicants who fail to give us the necessary information; they will please observe wherein they were deficient, and send us another application, corrected by reference to the foregoing rules. It will receive attention from the Executive Board on the first meeting after its reception, and the applicant will be informed of the result.

MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The meetings of the Executive Board are held on the last week of each month. Without special reasons, no appointments are made at any other time. Applicants will do well to remember this and govern themselves accordingly in mailing their letters, as an application which reaches us just after a meeting, must lay nearly a month before it can be acted on.

STATE AUXILIARIES

Of the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

New-Hampshire Convention,	Recognised	1832
Massachusetts do	do	do
Connecticut do	do	do
Pennsylvania do	do	do
New-York do	do	do
Ohio do	do	do
Virginia General Association,	do	do
Illinois Convention,	do	February, 1833
Maryland Union Association,	do	January, 1840
Michigan Convention,	do	December, do
Rhode Island do	do	July, 1841
Indiana General Association,	do	December, do
North Western Convention, Ill. and W. T.	do	February, 1842
Missouri General Association,	do	April, do
Texas Home Mission Society,	do	July, do
Iowa General Association,	do	do do
Maine Missionary Society,	do	September, do
Mississippi Convention,	do	do do
New-Jersey do	do	December, do
Kentucky General Association,	do	January, 1844

TO SECRETARIES OF AUXILIARIES.

It is very desirable that certain matter should be inserted in the annual reports of all the Conventions, General Associations, and other bodies auxiliary to the American Baptist Home Mission Society; and the secretaries, or other persons having in charge the preparation and printing of those reports, are respectfully and *earnestly* requested to undertake the labor.

First: Please prepare a MISSIONARY TABLE, like that in our last Annual Report; or give *each and every* item of information embraced in it in some other CONSCIUCUOUS WAY. These items can be obtained without trouble if the missionaries are instructed, when appointed, to report them.

Should not the pastors of churches aided, or the preachers commissioned to supply their pulpits, also be requested to furnish the same information?

Secondly: An ASSOCIATIONAL TABLE, like the one in our Annual Report. This, also, will require but little trouble, especially after it has been once prepared. The advantages of it, for many purposes, will fully compensate for the labor.

Thirdly: The post-office address of the officers of the auxiliary, and, when it can be done, of all the settled ministers in the State. The object is, of course, to facilitate correspondence. By possessing the knowledge of their address we could furnish them with our Annual Reports, Home Mission Record, and other documents and papers, and thus diffuse among them information of interest and importance.

Brethren, will you undertake to do it?

EARLY PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.

Again: It is very desirable that the annual reports should be published and distributed immediately after the anniversaries. They are very important documents. Many persons eagerly desire to obtain them. Please remember the American Baptist Home Mission Society among the first to whom you send copies. For very *particular reasons* we desire to have a copy, at latest, by the 1st of March, annually.

TO PRIMARY AUXILIARIES.

The secretaries of our primary auxiliaries are respectfully requested to transmit to us *at latest*, by the *first* of April, annually, the names of their presiding officer, secretary and treasurer, with post-office address, or residence, and the amount raised during the year.

TO SECRETARIES OF CONVENTIONS NOT AUXILIARY.

We are desirous of receiving a copy of the annual reports of *every* State Convention or General Association. They are documents of much value to us. Will the secretaries of those bodies favor us with a copy *soon* after their respective anniversaries?

TO OUR MISSIONARIES.

Quarterly reports are expected promptly from each of our missionaries, according to their general instructions. Those to whom a copy of *this notice* is mailed will please understand that their last report had not reached us in due course of mail from the expiration of their quarter, and transmit it as soon as possible.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The reception of letters at the Mission Rooms, from Correspondents, will be acknowledged by mailing a copy of this Home Mission Record when a written reply is unnecessary, or when such a reply must, for any reason, be delayed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

An article was inserted in the Appendix of our last Annual Report for the encouragement of such of our missionaries as desired to provide libraries for the Sunday schools at their stations. We are very happy to learn that several have availed themselves of the generous offer contained in that article. The Society alluded to in it consists chiefly of the scholars and teachers of the Sunday school of the First Baptist Church, in Brooklyn, who severally contribute to the treasury, as a general thing, a cent a week, and they engage to add an amount equal to that which any school under the care of our missionaries will raise for the purchase of books for their libraries. Thus, if a western school raise $5, (which is the usual sum,) they add $5, and forward them books to the amount of $10.

We regret that some of our western friends have not understood the arrangement proposed, and at the suggestion of a respected friend we cheerfully re-publish the article alluded to in another form.

DIRECTIONS TO OBTAIN BOOKS.

Let each church or Sunday school under the care of our missionaries, desirous of obtaining a Sunday school library, raise five dollars, more or less, and then address a letter to Elijah Lewis, Esq., Brooklyn, N. Y., informing him of the name of the school, its condition, the number of teachers and scholars, with any interesting facts in its history they please, and requesting him to forward them in return, Sunday school books, according to the offer in the Eleventh Annual Report of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. Mention the name of the person to whom they shall be sent, with his post-office address, and any other directions to be written on the package, and inform him by what conveyance or route they shall be sent. The letter should enclose the cash in one bank note; or the missionary can receive the money raised, and in his next quarterly report direct us to pay the amount to Mr. Lewis, which will be done, and charged in his account. By this arrangement increased postage and risk will be avoided.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

An Act to incorporate the American Baptist Home Mission Society. Passed April 12th, 1843, by a two-thirds vote.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1. All such persons as now are, or may hereafter become members of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, formed in the city of New York, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, shall be, and hereby are constituted a body corporate, by the name of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, for the purpose of promoting the preaching of the gospel in North America.

2. The net income of said Society arising from their real estate shall not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars annually.

3. This Corporation shall possess the general powers and be subject to the provisions contained in title third of chapter eighteenth of the first part of the Revised Statutes, so far as the same are applicable, and have not been repealed.

4. This Act shall take effect immediately.

5. The Legislature may at any time modify or repeal this Act.

State of New York, Secretary's Office.

I have compared the preceding with an original Act of the Legislature of this State on file in this office, and do certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original.

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, *Dep. Sec. of State.*

ALBANY, April 22, 1843.

PRIMARY SOCIETIES.

The American Baptist Home Mission Society has several auxiliaries of a primary character in churches of different cities. We are desirous that the number should be greatly increased. We should rejoice to recognise one in every Church in the land. They are, usually, active and efficient in supplying the treasury. Often has the inquiry been made by our female friends: 'What can I do to promote the interest of Christ on earth?' The Divine Providence has replied by pointing, among other things, to this important labor, and we are happy to know that an increasing desire to occupy that interesting sphere exists extensively among them.

Two or three persons, earnestly desirous of such an organization, can generally accomplish the object. Let them draw up a simple Constitution and then obtain as many signatures to it as possible. Five, or three, (if no more can be obtained,) are sufficient for a beginning, especially if the object have the support of the pastor. With these commence, organize, send information of the fact to the Secretary of the parent Society, and proceed to increase the number till, if possible, the sum raised shall be at least equal to one cent a week for each member of the church. The day of small things must not be despised. In some instances the contribution of a society of five members will be more than was ever given for Home Missions by the whole church.

FORM OF A CONSTITUTION.

The following form of a Constitution we submit as being substantially all that is requisite for any Society:

1st. This Society shall be called the ——— ——— ——— ———; and shall be auxiliary to the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

2d. The Society shall consist of such persons as contribute to its funds not less than one cent a week.

3d. The business of the Society shall be conducted by a Board of Managers consisting of not less than three persons, to be chosen annually: the first of whom shall be Chairman, the second Secretary, and the third Treasurer: they shall have power to fill vacancies in their number when they occur, and to do all things necessary to the execution of their trust, according to the provisions of this Constitution.

4th. It shall be the duty of the Board of Managers to endeavor to obtain the services of a sufficient number of female collectors to render the labor of collecting the contributions of the members easy; and to meet (monthly or quarterly, as may be most expedient)—for the reception of funds and reports from the collectors. The collectors are to gather the contributions from members assigned them, and pay over the amount to the treasurer at the stated meetings of the Board, and obtain new subscribers as they have opportunity.

5th. There shall be an annual meeting of the Society held on the —— day of —— at which time the Board shall make a report of their proceedings, including the reports of the collectors, with a list of their respective contributions and the amount collected; and the Board of Managers for the ensuing year shall also be elected.

6th. The Treasurer shall make remittances of the funds received, to the treasurer of the Parent Society, quarterly or semi-annually, dating from the month of April.

7th. This Constitution may be altered at any annual meeting of the Society, by a majority of the members present.

PRIVILEGES.

For every $30 paid into our treasury, whether from a church, society, or individual, a member for life can be constituted; and for $100 a director for life. Any church or society paying $100 or upwards, annually, can have the privilege of designating it for the support of some particular missionary, who will be required to make stated reports to them in return.

ADDRESS TO FRIENDS.

Christian friends, especially Christian sisters, we submit the above subject to your consideration. If you think of it, pray over it, and act with Christian feeling and zeal, especially if you give for this object from week to week *only as God may have prospered you*,—we have no fears for the result. We shall never again be obliged to refuse support to a poor but deserving missionary, or decline aiding a young and feeble church in the wilderness; never weep again because we have not the bread of life to give the famishing applicant; but you will supply the destitute of our land, and make multitudes of hearts to sing for joy.

MEMBERSHIP.

The following are the terms of membership, &c., in the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

An Annual Member, by an annual contribution.

A Member for Life, by the payment of 30 dollars or more.

A Director for Life, by the payment of 100 dollars or more, or any sum which, in addition to a previous payment, makes one hundred dollars.

PRIVILEGES.

Annual Members, Life Members, and members of Auxiliary Societies, are entitled to a seat and vote at the meetings of the Society.

Directors for life are entitled to the additional privilege of voting at the election of an Executive Board.

The officers of auxiliary societies are ex-officio Directors of this Society.

IMPORTANT WHEN WILLS ARE MADE.

Legacies have, sometimes, been diverted from the purposes of testators, on account of technical informalities in the devising clause. This Society having been incorporated, a "Form of Bequest," has been prepared, and approved by high legal authority; to which we solicit the careful attention of those friends who kindly intend to place the Society among their legatees as one which, if followed, will ordinarily secure to us the favors intended.

FORM OF A BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY.

I give and bequeath to the American Baptist Home Mission Society, formed in New York in the year eighteen hundred and thirty-two, the sum of —— dollars, for the purposes of said Society.

ADDRESS OF THE SOCIETY.

Communications or remittances for the Society or Executive Board, should be addressed to "Rev. Benjamin M. Hill, Cor. Sec. of the Am. Bap. Home Mission Society, New-York."

All periodicals or printed documents, should be directed to "Am. Bap. Home Mission Society, New-York."

☞—Please give the addresses as here printed, as, on account of the existence of many societies and corporations in the city of New-York—some of them of nearly similar titles, an omission to do so, especially when the initials only are used, occasions the miscarriage and even loss of such documents.